

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated June 30, 2006, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1 and 7 are rejected by the Examiner. Claims 2, 4, 9, and 10 have been amended. Claims 1-7, 9-11, 15-20 and 23-30 remain pending in this application.

In the Office Action, claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent No. 9-34381 to Minoru (hereinafter "Minoru") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,879,366 to Takeishi (hereinafter "Takeishi"). Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent No. 6-265919 to Kanesaka et al. (hereinafter "Kanesaka") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,020,867 to Shimada et al. (hereinafter "Shimada") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,950,072 to Honda (hereinafter "Honda") further in view of Takeishi. Claims 2-6 and 9-11 are objected to be being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 2, 4, 9, and 10 have been rewritten in independent form, hence claims 2-6 and 9-11 are allowable.

The rejection of claims 1 and 7 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Claim 1 is allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "a structure arranged over the variable resistor that is openable for adjusting the common voltage." None of the cited references including Minoru and Takeishi, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Specifically, the Examiner identifies structure 4/4a/4b of Minoru as "arranged over the variable resistor that is openable for adjusting voltage." In reality the structure 4/4a/4b is not openable, but rather slides. This structure is attached to sliding lever 7 to allow adjustment of the variable resistor 5. Further the structure 4/4a/4b can slide and still cover the hole 3. So structure 4/4a/4b is not openable for adjusting the common voltage, and does not need to be opened to make an adjustment to variable resistor. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable over the cited references.

Claim 7 is allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "a slit in the covering structure over the PCB."

None of the cited references including Kanesaka, Shimada, Honda, and Takeishi, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. The Examiner fails to even address this feature in the Office Action, and hence has failed to show each and every feature of the claimed invention. Further, the Examiner provides just a conclusory statement that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the cited references. No teaching in any of these references is cited as providing a basis for the combination. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 7 is allowable over the cited references.


Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. *A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.*

Respectfully submitted,

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